



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference SO001	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/JP2003/010272	International filing date (day/month/year) 12 August 2003 (12.08.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 23 August 2002 (23.08.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B82B 3/00, B01J 19/00, G01N 37/00, G05D 7/06		
Applicant SHIBATA, Yuichi		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 12 August 2003 (12.08.2003)	Date of completion of this report 07 May 2004 (07.05.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2003/010272

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

 the international application as originally filed the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the claims:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the drawings:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

 contained in the international application in written form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages _____ the claims, Nos. _____ the drawings, sheets/fig. _____5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP 03/10272

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	2-4, 6, 7, 9-11	YES
	Claims	1, 5, 8	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1-11	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Document 1: WO 01/44667 A1 (University of Washington),
21 June 2001

Document 2: WO 00/63704 A2 (PerSeptive Biosystems,
Inc.), 26 October 2000

Document 3: WO 99/17093 A1 (The Regents of the
University of Michigan), 08 April 1999

Document 4: EP 0187699 A2 (National Research Development
Corp.), 16 July 1986

The inventions that are set forth in claims 1, 5 and 8 are disclosed in document 1 cited in the international search report; therefore, they lack novelty and do not involve an inventive step.

The inventions that are set forth in claims 2 to 4, 6, 7 and 9 to 11 do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1 and documents 2 to 4 cited in the international search report.

Document 2 discloses a microchip wherein a sample fluid in the sample introduction channels is separated by means of a different solution that is introduced via the separation channels which intersect with said sample introduction channels (specifically, refer to page 9, line 15 to page 10, line 15 and fig. 2 A to F).

Document 3 discloses a microchip wherein a liquid in

the fine tubes is separated via heating by means of a heater (specifically, refer to fig. 4A).

Document 4 discloses a microchip that employs a method wherein a fluid is moved by means of centrifugal force.

Therefore, it would be easy for a person skilled in the art to conceive of combining the fluid transmission method that is disclosed in document 1 with the fluid separation methods and fluid positioning methods that are disclosed in documents 2 to 4.